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General and complete disarmament: promotion of multilateralism in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation

Promotion of multilateralism in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation

Report of the Secretary-General

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I. Introduction

1. On 3 December 2004, the General Assembly adopted resolution 59/69, entitled "Promotion of multilateralism in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation", in paragraph 8 of which the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to seek the views of Member States on the issue of the promotion of multilateralism in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation and to submit a report containing that information to the General Assembly at its sixtieth session.

2. Pursuant to that request, on 25 February 2005, a note verbale was sent to Member States inviting them to provide information on the subject. The replies received are reproduced in section II below. Additional replies received will be issued as addenda to the present report.

II. Replies received from Governments

Bolivia

[Original: Spanish]
[20 May 2005]

Resolution 59/69, adopted by the General Assembly on 3 December 2004, promotes multilateralism in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation and recalls, inter alia, that the responsibility for managing worldwide economic and social development, as well as threats to international security, must be shared among the nations of the world.

Bolivia, as a member of the international community, considers multilateralism to be a core principle for resolving disarmament and non-proliferation concerns.

In this regard, Bolivia firmly supports the work of the international agencies in the United Nations system that aim to promote disarmament and the peaceful uses of nuclear energy with a view to ensuring international peace and security.

Burkina Faso

[Original: French]
[14 June 2005]

General Assembly resolutions 59/87 on confidence-building measures in the regional and subregional context and 59/69 on promotion of multilateralism in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation

With respect to international legal instruments on disarmament, non-proliferation of weapons and the establishment of conditions for strengthening confidence measures among States, Burkina Faso has ratified a number of conventions, including:

- Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material, and
- Convention on the Marking of Plastic Explosives for the Purposes of Identification.

At the West African subregional level, Burkina Faso has acceded to the Moratorium on the Importation, Exportation and Manufacture of Light Weapons, adopted in 1998 by the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), whose implementation will permit the establishment of long-term confidence and the strengthening of the capacity of Governments to exercise stricter control over the traffic in light weapons.

In the context of the struggle against terrorism, in addition to security measures taken at the national level, namely the tightening of border controls on the basis of updated lists provided by the United Nations Security Council, surveillance of certain groups of nationals and foreigners, and the bolstering of the capacities of the security services, Burkina Faso is conducting sustained cooperation at the subregional, regional and international levels with other countries with a view to eliminating the terrorist threat.

Chile

[Original: Spanish]
[13 May 2005]

Chile firmly believes that the interests of collective security are pre-eminent, and therefore actively participates in the relevant international forums. In this context, Chile calls for the improvement of disarmament and non-proliferation strategies, and will work towards the success of the review of the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT); it will make efforts to revitalize the Conference on Disarmament and work for the prompt adoption of an effective programme of work in such areas as negative security assurances, nuclear disarmament and the arms race in outer space. It also considers essential a prompt start to the negotiations on a treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons. It will stress the need to accede to the Model Protocol Additional to the Agreement between States and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) for the Application of Safeguards, and the prompt entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty. In sum, Chile is strongly committed to the promotion of multilateralism in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation.

Japan

[Original: English]
[7 April 2005]

A. Japan's basic position

Japan adheres to all the international disarmament and non-proliferation treaties and regimes on weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery, as well as those on conventional arms and has been making active efforts to reinforce them. Japan has also made an active contribution to promoting international cooperation in preventing the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, their means of delivery and related materials, as well as the spread of conventional arms. In addition, Japan has held consultations with countries for the close exchange of views and, where necessary, has made specific demarches on these occasions:

- Japan acceded to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons in 1976 as a non-nuclear-weapon State. Subsequently, Japan accepted the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) safeguards to provide transparency about its nuclear activities. Japan also concluded an additional protocol to its IAEA Safeguards Agreement in 1999;

- Japan ratified the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty in 1998, and has vigorously worked to establish the international monitoring system in Japan;

- Japan acceded to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material in 1988;

- Japan ratified the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction in 1982;

- Japan ratified the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction in 1995;

- Japan makes every effort to fully implement the United Nations Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects adopted by the United Nations Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects in 2001;

- Japan ratified the amended Protocol II on mines, booby-traps and other devices to the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects on 10 June 1997;

- Japan ratified the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-personnel Mines and on Their Destruction on 30 September 1998;

- Japan has promoted universal adoption and full implementation, and, where necessary, strengthening of the above-mentioned treaties;

- Japan is currently a member of all the international export controls regimes, that is, the Nuclear Suppliers Group, the Zangger Committee, the Australia Group, the Missile Technology Control Regime and the Wassenaar Arrangement. Japan has been actively participating in discussions in the regimes and promoting outreach activities towards non-participants in each regime;

- Japan is also providing a secretariat function as the point of contact in the Nuclear Suppliers Group. Japan presided over the General Working Group of the Wassenaar Arrangement in 2004;

- Japan is a member of the International Code of Conduct against Ballistic Missile Proliferation (The Hague Code of Conduct), which was launched in November 2002;

- Japan fulfils its commitment to multilateral cooperation, in particular within frameworks of IAEA, the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons and the Biological Weapons Convention, as an important way of

pursuing and achieving common objectives in the area of non-proliferation and promoting international cooperation for peaceful purposes;

- Japan has promoted dialogues and cooperation on non-proliferation in order to address threats posed by proliferation of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons and their means of delivery. In particular, in order to strengthen comprehensive non-proliferation mechanisms through the enhancement in Asian countries of measures such as import and export controls, domestic controls, border controls and transport interdiction of weapons of mass destruction and other related materials, Japan maintains close dialogue with Asian countries, which promotes the identification of possible means of cooperation to overcome obstacles to the national implementation of relevant treaties and norms;

- Japan has been actively participating in and contributing to the Proliferation Security Initiative, which is an effort to consider possible measures among the participating countries, in accordance with national legal authorities and relevant international law and frameworks, to prevent the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, missiles and related materials that pose threats to the peace and stability of the international community. Japan played an important role in drafting the "Statement of Interdiction Principles", a basic document of the Proliferation Security Initiative. Furthermore, Japan has been calling for wider support for the Initiative, especially from Asian countries. In this regard, the Maritime Interdiction Exercise hosted by Japan in October 2004 promoted understanding of and support for the Initiative.

B. Japan's efforts

In order for the multilateral regimes in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation to function effectively, the following five factors need to work appropriately and adequately:

(a) Rule-making;

(b) Implementation of the rules by each party;

(c) Verification of compliance with the rules;

(d) Remedy against a non-compliance with the rules;

(e) Expansion of participants of the rules (universalization).

Japan plays a significant role in each aspect outlined above.

1. Japan has made active contribution, for example, to the launching of the Hague Code of Conduct against Ballistic Missile Proliferation, as well as to the formulation of the IAEA Model Additional Protocol. In addition, as a preparatory activity for the establishment of rules, Japan submits nuclear disarmament resolutions to the United Nations General Assembly every year, indicating the direction that the nuclear disarmament negotiations should take. Additionally, in the area of conventional weapons, a resolution concerning the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons is submitted to the General Assembly every year to set the direction for the future rule-making activities. Also, the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms was established by the General Assembly in its resolution

entitled "Transparency in armaments", which was submitted by Japan and the member States of the European Community in 1991.

2. Regarding the implementation of rules, obligations under disarmament and non-proliferation treaties have become so advanced and complicated that some developing countries have difficulties in implementing them. Japan provides various types of assistance to deal with these problems and to help developing countries implement the rules. For example, with regard to the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, Japan has implemented, inter alia, human resources development programmes in developing countries by offering global seismic observation training and providing seismic observation instruments. Japan is also willing to provide assistance, as appropriate, in response to specific requests, to States lacking the legal and regulatory infrastructures, implementation experience and/or resources for fulfilling provisions of resolutions of the United Nations Security Council.

3. Japan has contributed to the reinforcement of IAEA safeguards measures, a verification mechanism in the area of nuclear non-proliferation. Japan has made great contributions to the process of establishing the Additional Protocol. Japan has also supported a series of regional seminars held in many parts of the world for the universalization of the Additional Protocol and hosted the International Conference on Wider Adherence to Strengthened IAEA Safeguards in Tokyo in December 2002 to reinforce the IAEA safeguards regime. Japan has also conducted demarches on the Additional Protocol to countries that have not yet concluded it, together with other members of the G-8.

4. As far as remedial action against a non-compliance of the rules is concerned, Japan has been actively engaged in efforts for peaceful resolution of the nuclear issue in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea on the occasion of the Six Party Talks.

5. With regard to the universalization of multilateral disarmament and non-proliferation treaties such as the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, Japanese high-ranking officials have been inviting as many countries as possible to participate in the regimes. In the case of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty in particular, Japan has spearheaded international efforts to bring it into force. As mentioned in paragraph 3 above, Japan is actively involved in an effort for the universalization of the IAEA Additional Protocol. The Japanese initiatives were highly evaluated in the resolutions on the safeguards system adopted at the IAEA General Conferences in September 2003 and 2004.

Mexico

[Original: Spanish]
[16 May 2005]

Mexico reiterates its view that General Assembly resolution 59/69 represents a very important contribution to international efforts to promote strict respect for the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations.

Mexico reaffirms the right of all States to participate in negotiations leading to the adoption of measures to confront global problems and threats, including those related to disarmament, arms control and non-proliferation, in view of the fact that

multilateralism is the most realistic strategy for adopting effective measures in those areas.

Accordingly, Mexico continues to recognize the value of the body of existing agreements on disarmament, arms regulation and non-proliferation, which provide the necessary infrastructure for further progress in those fields on the basis of universal, multilateral, non-discriminatory, and genuinely binding and transparent negotiations.

In addition, Mexico again urges all Member States to participate in negotiations on disarmament, arms regulation and non-proliferation, thereby preserving and strengthening the United Nations disarmament machinery and the structure of existing disarmament agreements, while refraining from resorting to unilateral measures to settle their security concerns, which, far from offering a positive solution, seriously jeopardize international peace and security and undermine confidence in the international security system as well as the very foundations of the United Nations.

Mexico continues to recognize the need for complementarity in bilateral, plurilateral and multilateral negotiations in the fields of disarmament, arms regulation and non-proliferation. Faced, however, with initiatives that take a partial approach to disarmament issues, Mexico emphasizes once again that multilateralism must serve as the core principle in negotiations on these matters.

Panama

[Original: Spanish]
[5 May 2005]

A brief review of actions taken to prevent and combat such scourges as the drug trade and the traffic in small arms and light weapons leads to the conclusion that, in order to be effective, they must be integrated. In other words, such actions must focus not on the supply or the demand, separately, but on both together. It is currently impossible to separate the matters of vertical and horizontal proliferation. An integrated focus to disarmament and non-proliferation can only be achieved through multilateral diplomacy and international and regional agencies.

In this regard, Panama considers as fundamental the efforts to promote multilateralism being taken by the United Nations and the specialized international and regional agencies, including IAEA and the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (OPANAL). However, the use of multilateralism in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation does not preclude the negotiation and adoption of other treaties and resolutions for those purposes. On the contrary, the true value of multilateralism will be all the more visible in the areas of implementation, enforcement and monitoring of the international obligations of States, particularly with a view to preventing the unilateral use of coercive measures on the part of certain States.

The Republic of Panama considers that education in the subjects of disarmament and non-proliferation is the paramount tool for promoting multilateralism. Only a clear understanding of the concepts associated with those subjects, of the existing and emerging conflicts, and of the strategies available for

handling such conflicts can provide mutually agreed, non-discriminatory and effective solutions using the institutionally established multilateral mechanisms.

Russian Federation

[Original: Russian]
[26 May 2005]

We believe that the new draft resolution should reflect the following considerations:

1. The Russian Federation takes the view that further development of the multilateral basis of disarmament and non-proliferation is a key part of strengthening international security at the present time.

2. Recent world events have shown that attempts to cope with contemporary threats through unilateral action are futile. The multilateral approach is the only appropriate way to detect fundamental threats to security and to direct the course of action to counter them.

3. The Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, the Chemical Weapons Convention and the Biological Weapons Convention, and the other major arms-control, disarmament and non-proliferation agreements, particularly in the field of weapons of mass destruction, are all multilateral in character.

Accordingly, only multilateral efforts will produce the full and comprehensive implementation of their provisions, including the prohibitions which they establish.

4. Multilateralism in disarmament and non-proliferation is sustained and driven by the collective effort, based on international law, to uphold existing agreements and conclude new agreements, and the related work being conducted within international organizations, with the United Nations in a leading role.

5. The fact that these agreements are multilateral also implies the need to make them universal. Experience has shown that the way to encourage universality is to involve all interested States, without exception and on an equal basis, in negotiating such agreements.

6. Participating States should examine on a multilateral basis any concerns raised. In such cases, the principle of multilateralism should make it possible to take the necessary steps on the basis of international law and the procedures established by disarmament and non-proliferation agreements.

7. Bilateral, regional and group efforts to further disarmament and non-proliferation should not clash with multilateral efforts. The likelihood that a group of States sharing a common position will come to an accord relatively rapidly does not justify refusal to cooperate with States which, for whatever reason, cannot join such an accord.

Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)

[Original: Spanish]
[31 May 2005]

The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela once again reaffirms the importance of multilateralism in regulating disarmament and non-proliferation, and its role as the ideal method for finding solutions to the problems of disarmament that could threaten international peace and security. In this regard, attaining the universal validity of international instruments on disarmament and non-proliferation at the multilateral level and strengthening international bodies responsible for administering such instruments constitute fundamental contributions to international peace and security.

In the past three years, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela has voted in favour of draft resolutions on the promotion of multilateralism in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation submitted within a United Nations framework. South Africa, on behalf of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, introduced the text of the draft resolution in question, whose basic elements are in line with the views of Venezuela.

The resolution stresses the importance of multilateralism in the field of international disarmament and security, the need for States to cooperate and to settle their differences through dialogue and peaceful reconciliation, the preservation and strengthening of arms-regulation agreements and the need to discuss, on a multilateral level, possible cases of non-compliance, avoiding at all times recourse to unilateral action.